

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 6, 10, and 11-20, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2-5 and 7-9, as specified in the following listing of claims.

The listing of claims given below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) ~~The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which~~ A supply circuit having a switching transistor (T1), and a forcing circuit (ZS) for driving a control input of the switching transistor (T1), characterized in that an oscillator circuit (OS) which is connected to the control input is provided and is configured in such a way that a startup operation of the supply circuit firstly carries out an oscillation which is independent of the forcing circuit (ZS) and in doing so actuates the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and the supply circuit is configured in such a way that the forcing circuit (ZS) is supplied, as a result of the driving of the control input by the oscillator circuit (OS), by a supply current produced by the supply circuit, and subsequently performs the driving of the control input of the switching transistor (T1), wherein the oscillator circuit (OS) is an amplifier circuit with a feedback (C71) which has an input (E) which is connected to an output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS), and an output (A2) which is connected to the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and serves as an amplifier for the output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS) when the control input of the switching transistor (T1) is driven by the forcing circuit (ZS).
3. (Currently amended) ~~The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, which is~~ claim 2, comprising a power factor correction circuit (L1, L2, C1, D1, T1) for the harmonic-limited extraction of a D.C. voltage from an A.C. power system.
4. (Currently amended) ~~The supply circuit as claimed in claim 3, which~~ wherein the power factor correction circuit is a SEPIC converter (L1, L2, C1, D1, T1).
5. (Currently amended) ~~The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which~~ claim 2, wherein the forcing circuit (ZS) is a microcontroller.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) ~~The supply circuit as claimed in claim 6, in which~~ claim 2, wherein the oscillator circuit has a digital input which is connected to the output of the forcing circuit, and operates as a driver circuit when there is an input level of logic 0 or logic 1, and operates as an oscillator circuit when there is an input level in a nonspecific intermediate region.

8. (Currently amended) The supply circuit as claimed in ~~claim 6, in which~~ claim 2, wherein the oscillator circuit (OS) operates as an amplifier circuit when there is a low impedance of the input (E) with respect to a reference potential, and as an oscillator circuit when there is a high impedance of the input (E) with respect to the reference potential.

9. (Currently amended) An electronic ballast ~~of a lamp having a supply circuit as claimed in claim 1~~ for powering a discharge lamp, the electronic ballast comprising:

a supply circuit having a switching transistor (T1), and a forcing circuit (ZS) for driving a control input of the switching transistor (T1), characterized in that an oscillator circuit (OS) which is connected to the control input is provided and is configured in such a way that a startup operation of the supply circuit firstly carries out an oscillation which is independent of the forcing circuit (ZS) and in doing so actuates the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and the supply circuit is configured in such a way that the forcing circuit (ZS) is supplied, as a result of the driving of the control input by the oscillator circuit (OS), by a supply current produced by the supply circuit, and subsequently performs the driving of the control input of the switching transistor (T1), wherein the oscillator circuit (OS) is an amplifier circuit with a feedback (C71) which has an input (E) which is connected to an output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS), and an output (A2) which is connected to the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and serves as an amplifier for the output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS) when the control input of the switching transistor (T1) is driven by the forcing circuit (ZS).

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)